GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5276
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
CHECK ON RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister recently called a conclave of Chief Ministers to draw a strategy to check rise in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the decisions taken and the strategy evolved therein to check price rise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the strategy evolved at the said conclave;

(d) whether there was an abrupt rise in prices in the North-Eastern States following the said conclave; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) to (c): In the conclave of Indian National Congress Chief Ministers of States held in September 2006, the Prime Minister in his speech primarily dwelt upon issues related to the performance of agriculture sector and on internal security of the country. Subsequently, in a letter dated 21st February 2007, the Prime Minister has appealed to all the Chief Ministers to take all necessary steps to keep inflation under control. The State Governments have been requested to approach the special monitoring Cell set up in the Cabinet Secretariat for any issues requiring quick resolution and for removing any bottlenecks in the availability of essential commodities. The letter also outlines the various fiscal, administrative and supply side augmentation measures that have been taken by the Central Government in the recent past.

Towards keeping inflation under check, some State Governments, in pursuance of the authorization given by the Central Government vide Notifications dated August 29, 2006 (and subsequent extension to this notification), have already passed Control Orders under the Essential Commodities Act with respect to wheat and pulses.

(d): No Sir.

(e): Does not arise.